



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Patrick W. Rice**

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## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**TO:** All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below.

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

**PROJECT NAME:** Distribution System Improvements  
Village of Giltner, Nebraska

**DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:** D311580

**PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:** \$250,000

The Village of Giltner has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). This project has Giltner ranked as a low priority and is included on the Planning List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2014 Intended Use Plan. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, the Village was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan in accordance with the listed bypass criteria.

Giltner is located in Hamilton County in south-central Nebraska. Situated from mile marker 324 on Interstate Highway 80, three miles south on Nebraska spur 41B. The community has a population of 352 according to the 2010 census, which has slightly declined over the prior decade. Giltner has been issued a permit to operate a public water system (PWS) under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179.

In May 2014, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed by the Village's Engineer. The PWS consists of two municipal wells constructed in 2002 and 2007, a 125,000 Gallon Water Pedosphere Tower constructed in 2004 and an undersized distribution system consisting primarily of ductile iron pipe with some PVC installed during recent water system improvements. The system has experienced a moderate amount of water leaks requiring repairs over the past decade. The water tower is in good condition, last inspected in 2012 and recent inspections of the wells did not note any major concerns. Water quality from historical monitoring

show all parameters being measured below drinking water standards but arsenic concentrations in the north well have risen with results of 7.47µg/l in 2012.

The engineering evaluation recommended that all areas of undersized water mains, which have shown a history of breaks, be replaced due to age and condition. It is recommended that new PVC water mains along with valves and fire hydrants be installed.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All of the responses were positive in that they indicated that the project would likely have no effect or adverse impact, was unlikely to be any violation, was cleared of any significant concerns or they offered no objection.

The Village is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent on the estimated project costs. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Giltner's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$19,472. Giltner's current water rate for a typical residential connection is \$30 base per month, with a consumptive use charge of \$0.50 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of approximately \$34 per month based on an average of 8,000 gallon monthly household water use. Based on 180 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$9.02 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$43 per month. The Village may opt for a 30 year loan term to limit the approximate rate increase up to \$41 per month.

A Public Hearing was held May 12, 2014, with 40 days advanced posted notice. The Engineering Consultant presented the proposed project. No public comments were indicated in the Village's meeting transcripts.

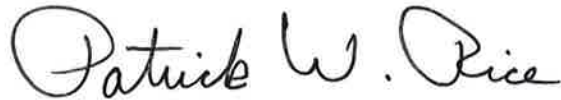
The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The infrastructure investment in a replacing water mains is in line with the stated goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction or waste discharges will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (e.g., NDEQ, etc.), if necessary. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the environmental assessment, the preliminary engineering report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ. The latter are available for public review upon request and the environmental assessment is attached. The NDEQ will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to

Steve Rowell at (402) 471-6347 or email [steve.j.rowell@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.j.rowell@nebraska.gov) of DHHS, or John Danforth at (402) 471-3373 or email [john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov) of the Water Division of NDEQ.

Signed this 26<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick W. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and a distinct "W".

Patrick W. Rice  
Acting Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment  
Distribution List  
Map

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

### A. Project Identification:

**Applicant:** Village of Giltner  
**Project No.:** D311580  
**Village:** Giltner **County:** Hamilton **State:** NE  
**DWSRF Loan:** \$250,000

### B. Community Description:

**Location:** Giltner is located in the south-central part of Nebraska, Situated from mile marker 324 on Interstate Highway 80, three miles south on Nebraska spur 41B.

**Population:** The community has a population of 352 according to the 2010 census, which has slightly declined over the prior decade.

**Current Water System Facilities:** The public water system consists of two municipal wells constructed in 2002 and 2007, a 125,000 Gallon Water Pedosphere Tower constructed in 2004 and an undersized distribution system consisting primarily of ductile iron pipe with some PVC installed during recent water system, which has experienced a moderate amount of water leaks requiring repairs over the past decade. The water tower is in good condition, last inspected in 2012 and recent inspections of the wells did not note any major concerns. Water quality from historical monitoring show all parameters being measured below drinking water standards but arsenic concentrations in the north well have risen with results of 7.47µg/l in 2012.

- C. Project Description:** In May 2014, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed by the Village's Engineer. The engineering evaluation recommended that all areas of undersized water mains, which have shown a history of breaks, be replaced due to age and condition. It is recommended that new PVC water mains along with valves and fire hydrants be installed.

### D. Alternatives Considered:

Two main alternatives studied were:

1. No project; or
2. Replace Water Mains.

**Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative:** Available records indicated sections of the distribution system are old undersized water main that has a history of leakage and breaks. These areas are prioritized for replacement as part of this project. If the project were not constructed, it could be possible that the water system would have future compliance problems with the Total Coliform Rule through required monitoring of bacteriological parameters within the distribution system.

## **E. Environmental Impact Summary:**

### **Primary:**

**Construction:** Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust, a limited potential for soil erosion, and fuel/oil spills. Review and approval for a construction permit will be required from the Engineering Services Program of the DHHS.

**Environmental:** The construction contracts will require that the contractors return the area to its original or better condition. All of the land area to be disturbed during construction will be Village owned or within street right of ways, and was previously disturbed. Based on a review of the available mapping the no portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All of the responses were positive in that they indicated that the project would likely have no effect or adverse impact, was unlikely to be any violation, was cleared of any significant concerns or they offered no objection.

**Financial:** An application for a DWSRF loan has been received for \$250,000 to fund the system improvements. The Village is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent on the estimated project costs. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Giltner's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$19,472. Giltner's current water rate for a typical residential connection is \$30 base per month, with consumptive use charge of \$0.50 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of approximately \$34 per month, based on average household water use. Based on 180 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$9.02 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$43 per month. The Village may opt for a 30 year loan term to limit the approximate rate increase up to \$41 per month. Following construction, Giltner will make a final assessment of revenues and cost to determine what rate adjustments are necessary.

### **Secondary:**

**Population Impacts:** The areas of the distribution system with a history of breaks and leakage over the past decade are being targeted for replacement, and thus the population of the Village that is most effected by the main breaks.

**Land Use and Trends:** All new water mains will be placed below ground at depths that will not interrupt any planned practices. The Nebraska State Historical Society

noted that the project will have no effect for archeological, architectural, or historic properties.

**Environmental:** The proposed project will have no effect on the availability of water quantity in the area. The minimal amount of solid waste generated by the project will be disposed in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with water main construction.

**Environmental Justice:** The proposed project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All structures will be placed in areas previously disturbed or on Village owned property, and the services provided by the proposed project will be available to everyone in Giltner, equally. No segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects.

**Mitigation measures necessary to eliminate adverse environmental effect:**

Proper construction techniques will be utilized to minimize soil erosion and other potential impacts of construction. Traffic flow may be affected by construction when water main construction is being done along the Village road right-of-ways; however, safety control measures (i.e., signs, etc.) will be implemented. An NPDES Construction Stormwater permit for runoff associated with construction activity and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDEQ for this project if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The Community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the stormwater permit notice of intent submitted to the NDEQ. Authorization of stormwater runoff from the construction activity must be in place prior to commencing construction.

**Irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources:** The resources committed to the project include the equipment, materials and energy used in construction.

**F. Measures Taken to Insure Environmental Soundness:**

**Public Involvement:** A Public Hearing was held May 12, 2014, with 40 days advanced posted notice.

**Public Opposition or Opinions:** No public comments were indicated in the Village's meeting transcripts.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:**

**Facility Planning:** Preliminary Engineering Report, Village of Giltner, Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C., May 2013

**Federal:** Corps of Engineers, June 3, 2013 and July 23, 2013, letters  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
May 28, 2013, email


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jun 5, 2013, reply letter


**State:** Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, May, 28, 2013, email  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, June 18, 2013, reply letter  
Nebraska State Historical Society, June 11, 2013, letter

**Consulting Engineers:** Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C., Kearney,  
NE

**Public Groups:** Village of Giltner Residents

- G. Positive Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project:** The project will allow Giltner to maintain compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure future water availability. The replacement of water mains achieves the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy for the upgrade and/or replacement of existing infrastructure. As such, the project is considered reasonable, not contrary to conservation or the public welfare and is a beneficial use of resources by the Village of Giltner.
- H. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts:** Review of the engineering report and supporting information indicates that the proposed project will result in no significant impact on the environment. Federal and State agencies reported no impact will result to threatened and endangered species, the floodplain, historical, farming or groundwater resources. All necessary permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (e.g., NDEQ, etc.), if necessary.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewing Engineer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**FNSI DISTRIBUTION LIST  
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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11201 Renner Blvd  
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Federal Building, Room 345  
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Lincoln, NE 68508

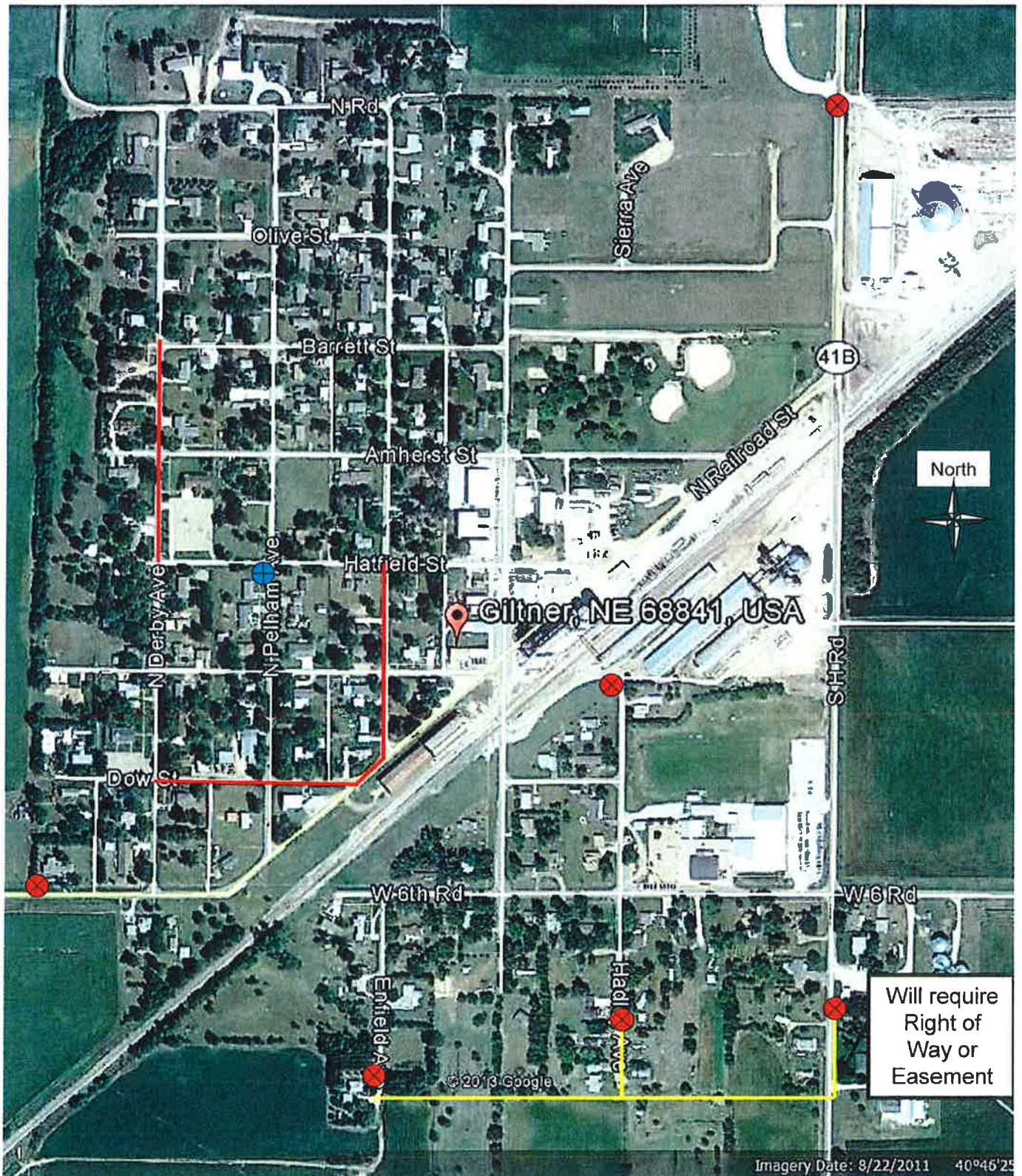
APPLICANT:  
Joan Eastman, Clerk  
Village of Giltner  
PO Box 218  
4021 North Commercial Avenue  
Giltner, NE 68841-0218

CONSULTING ENGINEERS:  
Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C.  
Larry Steele, P.E.  
1111 Central Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847-6833

LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
Aurora News Register  
1320 K Street  
Aurora, NE 68818

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
215 Kaufman Avenue  
Grand Island, NE 68803





Prepared By:

**MA**  
**Miller & Associates**  
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.  
 Kearney, NE - (308) 234-6456

### Map Legend

New Distribution Main .....  
 Water Main Replacement....  
 Hydrant Replacement.....  
 Hydrant Dead-ends.....



### Distribution Improvement Map

Giltner, Nebraska

Project # 340-C1-001